

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
DHA-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IOE-00 /067 W
-----142022Z 037857 /45

O P 141904Z FEB 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5193

INFO USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 1063

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, SHUM, UR

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: SOVIET ARREST OF HUMAN RIGHTS
LEADER

REF: STATE 32710

1. SUMMARY: AT THE MONDAY, FEB 14 MEETING
OF WESTERN GROUP MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
THE GROUP AGREED TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY ON THE QUESTION
OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USSR, BUT ON THE
OTHER HAND TO ENSURE THAT THE ISSUE REMAINS ACTIVE
UNTIL SUCH TIME AS IT CAN BE FULLY DISCUSSED UNDER
AN APPROPRIATE, CURRENTLY LISTED AGENDA ITEM. THE
QUESTION OF WHETHER THE MOST APPROPRIATE ACTION SHOULD
BE IN THE FORM OF A TELEGRAM, A RESOLUTION OR SIMPLY
STATEMENTS IN A GENERAL DEBATE WAS LEFT OPEN, PENDING
CONSULTATIONS WITH NON-WEO MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.
END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE MONDAY, FEB 14 MEETING OF THE
WESTERN GROUP MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION, I.E., SWEDEN,
AUSTRIA, CANADA, UK, FRG, ITALY AND THE U.S., THE
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GROUP AGREED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO KEEP THE QUESTION
OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USSR ACTIVELY
BEFORE THE COMMISSION WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROCEEDING
IN A SPIRIT THAT WOULD MAXIMIZE ANY POTENTIAL SUPPORT
FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. MEMBERS OF THE GROUP AGREED
ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE, THAT IS, THAT THE HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION SHOULD TAKE SOME ACTION WITH RESPECT

TO THE RECENT PATTERN OF VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE ACTION SHOULD NOT BE PERCEIVED MERELY AS AN ANTI-SOVIET POLITICAL ACT ON THE PART OF A FEW WESTERN STATES. DISCUSSION, THEREFORE, CENTERED ON THE QUESTION OF TACTICS.

3. ALL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP AGREED THAT NO ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO OPEN DEBATE UNDER ARTICLE 10 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE TO REQUEST THAT THE SUBJECT BE ADDED AS A NEW ITEM ON THE AGENDA. IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO USE THE DEBATE OVER PROCEDURES AS THE MAIN FORUM FOR EXPRESSING VIEWS ON THE ISSUE BUT IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT ANY VOTE TAKEN ON THE QUESTION OF ADDING THE ISSUE TO THE AGENDA WOULD LAUNCH THE DISCUSSION UNDER THE LEAST DESIRABLE CIRCUMSTANCES. THE DELEGATE OF AUSTRIA SUGGESTED THAT WE SHOULD USE AN AGENDA ITEM WHICH IS ALREADY INSCRIBED SUCH AS AGENDA ITEM 9, FURTHER PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, OR AGENDA ITEM 12, QUESTION OF VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ALL COUNTRIES, ETC. THE AUSTRIAN DELEGATE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE QUESTION OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USSR BE DISCUSSED UNDER A BROADER CONTEXT WHICH WOULD INCLUDE VIOLATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN EASTERN EUROPE AND SPECIFICALLY DISCUSSION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK CHARTER 77 CASES. THE AUSTRIAN DELEGATE STATED THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO INITIATE DISCUSSION OF THE CZECH

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SITUATION. THE SWEDISH DELEGATE EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT SENDING A TELEGRAM, STATING THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE SENT UNLESS IT HAD SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT FROM THE WHOLE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION. HE DOUBTED THAT THERE WOULD BE WIDESPREAD SUPPORT AND FELT IT WOULD BE DEFEATED IF PUT TO A VOTE. THE DELEGATION OF SWEDEN AGREED WITH THE AUSTRIAN DELEGATE THAT THE SUBJECT SHOULD BE DEALT WITH UNDER A STANDING AGENDA ITEM AND IN CONNECTION WITH DISCUSSIONS OF VIOLATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL. THE FRG SUGGESTED CREATION OF AN INFORMAL OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP TO WORK ON THE TEXT OF A TELEGRAM OR RESOLUTION AS A MEANS OF KEEPING THE SUBJECT ACTIVE UNTIL THE COMMISSION REACHES DISCUSSION OF ITEM 9 OR 12. HE ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING A BALANCED APPROACH, CITING RECENT REPORTS OF SERIOUS VIOLATIONS IN UGANDA AS REQUIRING EVEN MORE URGENT ATTENTION THAN THE SOVIET SITUATION. THE UK, DELEGATE, NOTING THAT HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS,

CAUTIONED THAT AN OVERLY-AMBITIOUS APPROACH COULD BE
EVENTUALLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND NOTED THAT A
TELEGRAM WAS NOT LIKELY TO GAIN SUPPORT OF THE
NON-ALIGNED. THE UK PREFERRED RAISING THE MATTER
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 12 OR POSSIBLY IN CONNECTION WITH
THE REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMISSION, AGENDA ITEM 19.
THE CANADIAN DELEGATION STATED THAT CANADA WAS
PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO THE CHALLENGE POSED TO THE
COMMISSION BY THE STATEMENT MADE ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY

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NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 IOE-00 /067 W
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 1063

11 BY AMB ZORIN OF THE USSR WHEN HE SUGGESTED THAT
THE U.S. HAD AMPLE MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL TO CONSULT
WITH THE USSR AND OBTAIN ANY INFORMATION IT WISHED,
THEREBY ASSERTING THAT THIS WAS A MATTER FOR BILATERAL
SOLUTION BETWEEN SUPER-POWERS AND THAT EVERY OTHER
STATE WAS SIMPLY PERIPHERAL TO THE ISSUE. CANADA
WAS SUPPORTED IN THIS VIEW BY THE DELEGATION OF
ITALY, WHICH ALSO RESENTED THE SOVIET LINE THAT
THIS WAS AN INTERNAL SOVIET AFFAIR AND THAT THE
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HAD NO AUTHORITY TO EVEN
DISCUSS THE MATTER.

4. THE GROUP DECIDED THAT THE BEST LONG-RANGE
TACTIC WOULD BE TO BRING UP THE MATTER OF SOVIET
VIOLATIONS UNDER AN EXISTING ITEM AND THAT WE SHOULD
AT THIS POINT CONSULT WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS OUTSIDE
THE WESTERN GROUP.

5. IN A SUMMARY STATEMENT TO THE GROUP THE

USDEL DESCRIBED THE NEXT TASK TO BET THAT OF CONSULTING
WIDELY WITH MEMBERS OF OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS TO
ASCERTAIN THEIR VIEWS ON THE ACTION WHICH THE
COMMISSION MIGHT APPROPRIATELY TAKE. CONSULTATION
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WILL ALSO ENABLE THE WEO GROUP TO MAKE A BETTER
JUDGMENT OF SUPPORT WHICH WILL BE LIKELY FROM OTHER
GROUPS ON A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL, SUCH AS A TELEGRAM.
THE GROUP AGREED TO MEET AGAIN WITHIN THE WEEK.

6. AT THE INFORMAL WESTERN GROUP MEETING ON
FRIDAY, FEB 11, WHICH INCLUDED BOTH MEMBERS AND
SOME OF THE WEO NON-MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION, THAT IS
BELGIUM, FRANCE, NORWAY, THE NETHERLANDS, AND
DENMARK, BUT NOT TURKEY OR JAPAN, THE DISCUSSION
ALSO CENTERED ON THE QUESTION OF TACTICS AFTER THE
INITIAL DECISION ON THE DESIRABILITY OF A WESTERN
REACTION. THE GROUP AGREED ON THE NECESSITY FOR
IMMEDIATE ACTION WHILE LEAVING OPEN THE QUESTION OF
THE NATURE OF THE SPECIFIC ACTION TO BE TAKEN. THE
DELEGATIONS OF AUSTRIA, CANADA, BELGIUM, FRANCE, AND
ITALY STRONGLY SUPPORTED IMMEDIATE ACTION, WHILE THE
DELEGATIONS OF SWEDEN AND THE NETHERLANDS PREFERRED
TO HOLD BACK. THE GROUP AGREED THAT THEY DID NOT
WANT THIS MOVE TO BE INTERPRETED SIMPLY AS A DESIRE
ON THE PART OF THE WESTERN GROUP TO TAKE SOME KIND
OF RETALIATORY MEASURE AS A RESULT OF THE HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION'S DECISION TO SEND A CABLE TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL, A DECISION ON WHICH ALL
MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN GROUP EITHER
ABSTAINED OR VOTED NO. THE GROUP ALSO EXPRESSED
ITS DESIRE TO AVOID FRAMING THE DISCUSSION OF THE
SOVIET VIOLATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE HELSINKI
FINAL ACT BECAUSE (1) WE DO NOT WISH TO HAVE
COMPLIANCE WITH THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT BECOME THE
TOPIC OF DISCUSSION IN A UN BODY AND (2) THIRD
WORLD COUNTRIES RESENT BEING FORCED TO TAKE SIDES ON
AN INTERPRETATION OF A DOCUMENT TO WHICH THEY ARE
NOT PARTIES. SOVIET VIOLATIONS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED
IN TERMS OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OR THE
INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS.
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7. USDEL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN

ACCORDANCE WITH PARA REFTEL WILL BE PROVIDED
IN A SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE. CATTO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: SOVIET ARREST OF HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER
TAGS: SHUM, UR, UN, UNHRC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0dfd6dc7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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